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Letter dated 6 January 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the recent Security Council resolutions on the question of Western Sahara, in which the Council called on the parties to engage in negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

Following the usual consultations, I intend to appoint Mr. Christopher Ross of the United States of America as my Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. Mr. Ross will work with the parties and the neighbouring States, on the basis of the recent Security Council resolution 1813 (2008) and earlier resolutions and taking into account the progress made to date, in order to achieve a just, durable and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Peter van Walsum, who served as the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara from 2005 to 2008. During this period, he held four rounds of talks with the parties and the neighbouring States, as well as numerous consultations and three fruitful visits to the region. I wish to express my appreciation to him for his dedication as one of my principal advisers on this important issue.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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